

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 478

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Candace Justice on her selection as the SOAR Community College Faculty Member of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest-quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Candace Justice is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Justice has been selected by the Tennessee Board of Regents as the SOAR (Statewide Outstanding Achievement and Recognition) Community College Faculty Member of the Year, a most befitting honor that recognizes the positive influence she has on so many lives; and

WHEREAS, SOAR award winners are chosen based on teaching expertise, including diversity initiatives, innovations in teaching, experiential learning initiatives, and exemplary service to the college, community, and discipline; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Justice has the additional distinction of being the first faculty member of Walters State Community College to receive this honor in the three-year history of the SOAR awards; and

WHEREAS, Candace Justice is the director of instructional design and associate professor of English at Walters State; in addition to her work in the classroom, she trains faculty members in new ways to integrate technology into teaching; and

WHEREAS, her work to develop innovative teaching methods has repeatedly earned Walters State the prestigious Apple Distinguished School recognition; in the last year alone, when the college moved most classes online, she trained over 1,000 instructors; and

WHEREAS, Candace Justice joined Walters State in 2009; she holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Concord University, as well as a Master of Arts degree from East Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential both as scholars and as citizens, Ms. Justice received the Walters State Distinguished Faculty Award in 2020; and

WHEREAS, Candace Justice serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Justice truly epitomizes the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Candace Justice on being chosen as the SOAR Community College Faculty Member of the Year, commend her exceptional service, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.